

Ranking Category—FORESTLAND HEALTH

Primary Resource Concern

- Degraded Plant Condition—Undesirable Plant Productivity (Crop, Forest)
- Water Quality Degradation—Excessive Sediment in Surface Water

Eligible Land Uses

- Crop, Forest, Range, Farmstead, Pasture

Additional Requirements for this Category—

- The 2014 Farm Bill requires that a producer develop and implement a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with the Kansas Forest Service or an approved Forest Management Plan (106) Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).

State Issues

1. Answer the following question if the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). The agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the state priority category.

- (a) Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If the answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other state level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (400 points)

2. If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the Kansas Forest Service Potential for Forest Stewardship Program Benefits. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (a) A HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (190 points)
- (b) A combination of MEDIUM and HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (115 points)
- (c) A combination of LOW and MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (65 points)

3. If applicable, answer the following question related to windbreaks that offer wind erosion protection to cultivated cropland with a wind erosion C factor of 40 or higher. If it doesn't apply, leave the answer “NO”:

- Windbreak offers protection to cultivated cropland with a wind erosion C factor of 40 or higher on greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern. (115 points)

Ranking Category–FORESTLAND HEALTH

4. If an existing windbreak is to be renovated, answer ONE of the following questions related to windbreak condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. If neither applies, answer the questions “NO”:

- (a) Windbreak is in poor condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. (50 points)
- (b) Windbreak is in fair condition as described in Kansas Forestry Technical Note 11. (25 Points)

5. If applicable, answer ALL of the following questions related to Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism (KDWPT) Ecological Focus Areas. If none apply leave the answers “NO”:

- (a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Terrestrial Species Ecological Focus Area and treatment of the resource concern will have a direct habitat benefit to a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the Ecological Focus Area. (10 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern is located within an Aquatic Species Ecological Focus Area and treatment of the resource concern will have a direct habitat benefit to a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) identified in the Ecological Focus Area. (15 points)

6. If applicable, answer ONE of the following 2 questions related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). If none apply leave the answers “NO”.

- (a) Greater than or equal to 50 percent of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority (HP) TMDL watershed for total suspended solids (TSS). (20 points)
- (b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50 percent, is located within a KDHE identified HP TMDL watershed for TSS. (10 points)

Local Issues

Answer the following questions related to the application:

- 1. Is the program application to support the development of a CAP? If answer is “Yes,” do not answer any other local level questions. If the answer is “No,” proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section. (250 points)
- 2. Application includes at least one practice with a lifespan of 10 years or greater, as documented in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). (75 points)
- 3. Practices are scheduled to be completed within four years. (75 points)

Ranking Category–FORESTLAND HEALTH

4. Participant requested a conservation plan for this application prior to August 31, 2016. (50 points)
5. Application was deferred from a previous funding period in the Program Contracts System (ProTracts). (50 points)